Railway's originating loading, being a derived demand, was below the proportionate target up to October, 2001 due to less demand from Core and Non Core sectors.

(d) It is the continuous endeavour of the Railways to ensure that expenditure is incurred judiciously and is kept strictly need based. Railways, inter-alia have been taking the following steps to ensure control of expenditure:-

(i) Austerity and economy measures in areas such as hospitality, publicity, advertisements, inaugural ceremonies, seminar & workshops, contingent office expenses etc.

(ii) Better manpower management for improving per capita productivity.

(iii) Energy conservation.

(iv) Efficient utilization of assets.

(v) Reduction in equipment failure and accidents.

(vi) Stringent financial and budgetary control through the mechanism of fixation of Spending Limits and monthly budget proportions.

(vii) Cost control, cost reduction and cost effectiveness in all online and off-line activities.

(viii) Improvement in inventory management.

Recruitment of SCs, STs and OBCs in Railways

2824. SHRI BIRABHADRA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:.

(a) Whether it is a fact that as provided under para 11 Explanatory Notes to DOPT O.M. No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated the 2nd July, 1997, persons belonging to SCs/STs and OBCs, who are selected on merit, are not required to be shown against the quota of vacancies / posts reserved for their communities; and

(b) if so, the total number of persons belonging to SCs, STs and OBCs selected/recruited/promoted on merit in the Ministry of

Railways to different categories of services and not counted against the reserved quota of vacancies/posts for their communities, during the last five years in the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. It has been stated in para '11' of the Explanatory Notes to DOP&T's O.M. No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated 02.07.1997 that, while operating the roster, persons belonging to communities for whom reservation has been made, but who are appointed on merit and not owing to reservation, should not be shown against reserved pots. They will occupy the unreserved points.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Maintenance of Station Building at Abu Road

2825. SHRI RANGANATH MISRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the railway platforms and the station building at Abu Road are not being kept in good repair and proper shape, although thousands of commuters travel to and from the said station every day if so the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to provide retiring rooms at the said station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No. Sir. Maintenance of the platforms and station building for proper upkeep is being carried out regularly. The circulating area has been beautified. Further, this station is selected for development as a Model Station and it is planned to improve the station building, circulating area etc. in phased manner.

(b) No, Sir.